

**MINUTES OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION  
MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2020**

*4:00 p.m.*

*Our Parks Conference Room (203 South Farwell St)*

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Kincaid, Disa Wahlstrand, Dennis Pope, Stephanie Finn,  
Selika Ducksworth-Lawton

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Matt Rokus  
Fire Chief Chris Bell  
Human Resources Director Victoria Seltun  
Deputy Chief Matt Jaggar  
City Attorney Steve Nick

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Tim Hawks  
Union President Tony Hennings  
Tate Roselius  
Andy Robinson  
Shawn Willi

The Commission convened in open session at 4:00 p.m. Meeting was called to order by President Daniel Kincaid. President Kincaid asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Police and Fire Commission meetings held on November 21<sup>st</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> or December 12<sup>th</sup>. No corrections or additions were noted, and the minutes stand approved as circulated.

President Kincaid welcomed the new Chief of Police, Matt Rokus, to his first meeting of the Police and Fire Commission as Chief. Chief Rokus provided a personnel update. The department has recently hired three new officers, one of which is in recruit school. The current eligibility list has been exhausted and there will be no carry-overs to the next list. Chief Rokus provided an overview of the current hiring process that is being coordinated with Human Resources.

Commissioner Ducksworth-Lawton joined the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Chief Rokus provided an overview of the promotional processes that will be started based on the Deputy Chief vacancy. A Sergeant promotional process and Lieutenant promotional process will be starting in January and Chief Rokus will plan to bring the promotions forward to the Commission in March for approval. Recently the department hired one new Telecommunicator, which still leaves five vacancies in the division. The department is hopeful that two additional offers can be made next week, and then a new hiring process will begin in the near future.

Chief Rokus provided an operational update. The Local 9 Police Contract was approved by Council on January 14, 2020. Expansion of the Chippewa Valley Computer Forensic Lab is soon to be underway. The department will be moving forward with a new software, CitiCall, for use in the pre-employment screening process and for future training for the Communications Center staff.

Chief Bell provided a personnel update. There are two new recent hires in the department. These hires went through the Cadet program during the Summer of 2019. There are three current vacancies, with one retirement anticipated for the middle of the year. The Fire Department also has a hiring process currently taking place. A Swearing-In ceremony for the new recruits and the Deputy Chief will be planned for some time in the spring. Additional information will be sent out at a later date.

Chief Bell also provided operational updates. The promotional testing process has started, with the tests being administered in April, and the promotional list being brought forth for approval by the Commission at the May meeting. The Local 487 contract was also approved by Council at the end of 2019.

Chief Bell brought forth a memo regarding the residency preference for the Fire Department. A discussion was held on this issue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ducksworth-Lawton and seconded by Commissioner Finn to formally support Chief Bell's recommendation for a 30-mile residency requirement for all new employees hired by the Eau Claire Fire Department, with implementation to be postponed until such time that this Police and Fire Commission approves implementation.

City Attorney Steve Nick joined the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the residency preference. Union President Tony Hennings and Attorney Tim Hawks were permitted, unanimously, by the Commission to speak and provide their insight into the topic.

Motion passed four to one.

President Kincaid asked if there are any future agenda items. None were brought forth.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wahlstrand to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pope, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Police and Fire Commission meeting is March 19, 2020.

Minutes recorded by Kelly Shea, Police and Fire Commission Secretary.